

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the amendment is found in present FIGS. 1 and 2. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 19, 2010.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wiedemann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,448,792) and Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiedemann et al. in view of Blaustein et al. (U.S. Published Application 2003/0084525). Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that Wiedemann discloses a technique of combining a loosening movement (8) and a wiping movement (9) in the tufted portion. The subject of Wiedemann is to prevent the large amplitude associated with the high frequency from injuring the gums (lines 43-49 of column 1 of Wiedemann), and the improvement can be achieved by adding the wiping movement (9) to the loosening movement (8) (lines 5-17 of column 2). Accordingly, an important point disclosed in Wiedemann is not the back-and-forth linear movement of a tufted portion in a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush (the loosening movement (8)) but an addition of the wiping movement (9) to the loosening movement (8) of a conventional electric toothbrush.

However, the present invention relates to a conventional toothbrush wherein brushing is enabled by back-and-forth linear movement (a loosening movement) of a tufted portion in only a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush, and the subject of the present invention is not to damage the gums of a patient with gingivitis, by setting properly the distance of movement of the tufted portion and the frequency of back-and-forth motion per minute. Therefore, the structures are completely different from each other.

Additionally, in Wiedemann, both the loosening movement (8) and the wiping movement (9) are applied to the tufted portion. Accordingly, end portions of the bristles of the tufted portion move in a zigzag state with having an amplitude of about 2 mm (lines 42-56 of column 2). Therefore, the movement of the end portions of the bristles is completely different from those of the present invention, wherein the end portions of the bristles move in only a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that even if the product ($x \cdot y$) of the distance (x) of movement of the tufted portion in a longitudinal direction of a replaceable brush and the frequency (y) of back-and-forth motion per minute in Wiedemann overlaps partially to a range of the product ($x \cdot y$) of the present invention ($5000 \cdot 7000$), the present invention is not obvious over Wiedemann because the present structure and the structure of Wiedemann are completely different from each other.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, removal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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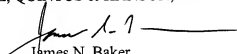
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1, 7 and 8, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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